




Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Brian Schweitzer, Governor

From: Jim Lynch, Director 

Date: May 3, 2010

Subject: Michael Brockie

Thank you for the opportunity to address Mr. Brockie's concerns regarding highway construction equipment placed in the highway medians.

I sympathize with Mr. Brockie and his family with the loss of their son.

During construction hours, equipment must be readily available on the construction site. To allow the traveling public to safely navigate through the project and working equipment, traffic control devices are used to separate vehicles from construction equipment, speeds are reduced and pilot cars used when needed.

Post construction hours equipment must be parked in the "staging area", beyond the "clear zone" and may be parked in the median if the median is an exceptionally wider width than a typical median.

On August 24, 2009, the project on Interstate 90 was in the pre-paving phase. Due to rain during construction hours, the crew and equipment sat at the job site on stand-by until 1 pm when the company decided to call it a day and return the equipment to the designated staging area outside the work zone. The crew proceeded with the paving project August 25 returning the equipment to the job site during working hours and back to the designated area at the completion of the day.

Upon investigation, the interstate median between MP 473 and MP 474 is wider than typical medians therefore allowing equipment to be parked in this area during non-construction hours.

MDT has reviewed and strengthened specifications to address the contract concern.

I appreciate Mr. Brockie's letter and I share his concerns regarding highway safety. He should feel free to contact me at (406) 444-6201 if he would like to discuss this further.